GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
HALLMARKING OF JEWELLERY
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to make hallmarking of jewellery mandatory in all the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to the consumers as a result thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to expand the scheme in other parts of the country in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above proposal is likely to be implemented across the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam. The Government proposes to make hallmarking of gold jewellery mandatory. However, for introducing such mandatory hallmarking, the Bureau of Indian Standards, Act, 1986 need to be amended first. The Bureau of Indian Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2012 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 3-05-2012. The Hon'ble Speaker has referred the said Bill to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on 25th May, 2012 for examination.

(b) : Mandatory Hallmarking will prevent deceptive practices in gold and jewellery and will ensure that consumers get quality products and value for money.

(c) to (e) :Details regarding applicability, enforcement methods, area covered, penalty provisions etc. will be finalized only after the enabling provision is made through amendment of BIS Act. Since the matter is now under examination by Standing Committee, no specific time frame can be indicated.